Modifications in AI's Boeing 747-400 Aircrafls

*439. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India employed a Taiwanese Agency, Egat, to carry out modifications on three Boeing 747-400 aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these modifications could have been carried out by engineers of the Air India; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not utilising the services of Air India engineers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to incidents/ accidents reported by various operators regarding cracks in the stmt wing attachment components on B747 airframe Boeing developed a one time "nacelle strut modification" to upgrade the structure of all the B747 structures. The above modification was declared mandatory by Federal Aviation Authority and Director General of Civil Aviation with a threshold of March 28th, 2002. Boeing supplies the modification kit and special tools free of charge and also reimburses the airlines certain number of manhour charges for carrying out the above modification. Out of Air India's six B 747-400 aircraft, three aircrafts were sent to Ever Green Aviation Technologies Corporation (EGATC) facility in Taiwan and the modification was carried out there.

(c) and (d) Air India has the capability to carry out this modification on its aircraft. However, due to unreasonable stand on the part of Aircraft Engineers represented by Air India Aircraft Engineers Association (AIAEA) and later non-availability of slot, these aircrafts had to be sent to an external party for modifications.